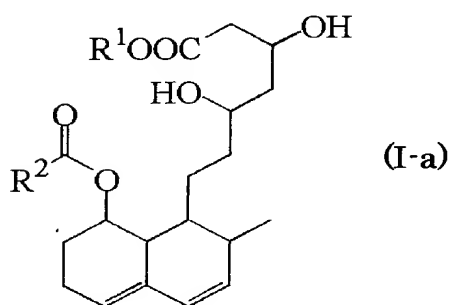


ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a process for producing a compound (II-a) or a compound (II-b), each of which is a hydroxylated product of a compound represented by the formula (I-a) (hereinafter referred to as compound (I-a)):



wherein

R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or an alkali metal, and R² represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl;

or a ring-closed lactone form thereof (hereinafter referred to as compound (I-b)).

wherein the process comprises:

treating the compound (I-a) or compound (I-b) in an aqueous medium comprising with a microorganism acting to hydroxylate compound (I-a) or compound (I-b), having no ability to sporulate and showing no hyphal growth, a culture of the microorganism, or a treated product of the culture, as an enzyme source ; and
collecting a hydroxylated product of compound (I-a) or compound (I-b) from the aqueous medium.